system at various levels for reviewing the implementation of the Public Distribution System.

Unidentified Bodies

2482. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Unclaimed bodies" appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated February 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the number of unidentified bodies recovered by the Delhi Police during 1995, 1996 and till date;

(c) the number out of them cremated at the expenses of the Government along with the reacons thereof;

(d) whether the efforts were made to inform the relatives of the deceased through wide publicity;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure the identity before their cremation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Government have been the news-item in question which appeared in the "Indian Express" in its issue of February 13, 1997.

(b) to (e) The information is as under :-

Year	Number of unidentified bodies recovered
1995	1591
1996	1564
1997 (upto 28.2.97)	246

Despite best efforts made by the police, the relatives of the deceased could not be traced. As such all these unidentified bodies were cremated by the police at Government expense except the unidentified bodies of Muslims which were handed over to the Wakf Board for burial.

(f) The following steps were/are taken for the identification of the unidentified dead bodies before cremation/burial :

(1) Such bodies are preserved for 72 hours in the mortuary for identification;

(2) Local enquiries are made;

(3) Request is made to the Public through newspapers/Doordarshan to help the police in the identification of such bodies;

(4) the finger prints are preserved and got compared from the Finger Print Bureau;

(5) Photographs of such bodies are got published in the Gazette and also pasted at the public places;

(6) Missing Person Squad of Crime Branch is informed;

(7) Wireless Message is flashed to all Senior Superintendents of Police in India and all Station House Officers in Delhi for the identification of such bodies; and

(8) Hue and Cry Notice is circulated.

[English]

Allotment of Forest Land

2483. SHRI K.S. RAYUDU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to allot forest land to the occupants in lieu of waste land proposed to be surrendered; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh have submitted a proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for dereservation of 33 ha. of forest land for assignment of pattas to tribals in Polavaram Range West Godawari district. The proposal has been received in the Ministry on 19.2.97 and is being processed.

[Translation]

Forest Conservation Act, 1980

2484. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many villages in the country are located in jungles and the Department of Forests interferes and puts hurdles in the construction of roads to these villages;

(b) if so, the details of Government policy in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are aware that most of the villages of Sonebhadra district in U.P. even today are located in jungles and there by still deprived of roads; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Diversion of forest land for construction of roads attracts provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for which prior approval of Central Government is required. For this purpose the State Governments have to submit proposals on a prescribed proforma to